

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 171705Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3569

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: USSR-LUXEMBOURG RELATIONS

REF: LUXEMBOURG 580

1. IN SEPTEMBER 17 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
(REPORTED SEPTES NOTAL) I TOLD THORN I HAD NOTED SOME
CONFUSION IN THE LUXEMBOURG PRESS ABOUT THE STATUS OF
THE SOVIET INVITATION FOR THE GRAND DUKE AND GRAND
DUCHESS TO VISIT THE USSR. THORN SAID THAT THE DAY
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BEFORE HE LEFT MOSCOW, GROMYKO CALLED HIM AT MIDNIGHT
TO SAY THAT THE USSR HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE A FORMAL INVI-

TATION TO THE GRAND DUKE AND DUCHESS. THORN SAID THAT HE REPLIED THAT THE GOL WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE INVITATION AND WOULD REPLY IN DUE COURSE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. SINCE THE SOVIETS HAD LEAKED WORD OF THE INVITATION TO THE PRESS, AND HAD APPARENTLY NOTIFIED THE LUXEMBOURG COMMUNIST PARTY (PCL), THAT IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, THORN SAID THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO CONFIRM THE INVITATION IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN TO LUXEMBOURG.

2. THORN SAID THAT THE GOL RESENTED SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INVITATION BEFORE PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS MUST BELIEVE THAT A TRIP WOULD HELP THE POSITION OF THE PCL IN THE SPRING 1974 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. HE ADDED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOSSAREV HAD CALLED ON SEPTEMBER 15 TO ASK THAT THE GOL GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TOWARDS ACCEPTING THE INVITATION. THORN SAID THAT HE TOLD KOSSAREV THE VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE GOL FORMED AFTER THE SPRING 1974 ELECTIONS TOOK OFFICE. THORN REPEATED GOL RESENTMENT WITH SOVIET PRESSURE TACTICS AND STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY "TAKE ITS TIME" BEFORE ACCEPTING THE INVITATION. FARKAS

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